

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-11 SAB-01 OMB-01 /083 W

----- 048033

R 121019Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6942

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS PRIME MINISTER RIFAI'S RECENT STATEMENTS TO FOREIGN MEDIA (OBSERVER AND WASHINGTON POST) DENYING RUMORS THAT GOJ WANTS TO CONCLUDE WEST BANK AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL. RIFAI QUOTED AS SAYING

"ANY NEGOTIATIONS PERTAINING TO THE WEST BANK MUST TAKE PLACE WITH THE PLO", "JORDAN DOES NOT INTEND TO REPLACE THE PLO", "THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT MAKE ANY CONTACTS WITH THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE WEST BANK" AND THAT "ISRAEL IS NOW LAUNCHING AN ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN OF FALSE PROPAGANDA TO DISTORT THE JORDANIAN STANCE."

2. NOTEWORTHY THAT NOTHING IN RIFAI'S STATEMENTS AT LEAST AS REPORTED HERE PICKS UP GAUNTLET OF EGYPTIAN CRITICISM OF RECENT JORDANIAN PARLIAMENTARY ACTIONS. IN FACT LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT KING HUSSEIN RECENTLY SEND SADAT AN "IMPORTANT

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AND CORDIAL MESSAGE THAT "WILL CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO REMOVE

THE CLOUDS FROM ARAB SKIES". AT THE SAME
TIME AD DUSTOUR AND AR RAYY NEWSPAPERS CONFRONT EGYPTIAN PRESS
CRITICISM HEAD ON, STATING THAT SADAT (AND CAIRO PLO OFFICE)
INFORMED OF JORDANS PARLIAMENTARY MOVES BEFOREHAND AND THAT
"EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES SHOWED UNDERSTANDING OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THAT JORDANIAN STEP". SPECULATING ON REASONS EGYPTIAN PRESS
NENETHELESS LAUNCHED CAMPAIGN OF CRITICISM, ARY RAYY EDITORIAL
CONCLUDES PURPOSE MIGHT BE TO SOW DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SYRIA
AND PLO BY DAMAGING JORDAN-SYRIA RELATIONSHIP, DRIVE WEDGES
BETWEEN "CARIOUS PARTIES OF THE PLO", OR "CAUSE TENSENESS
BETWEEN JORDAN AND PLO."

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY INTERPRETS DUAL RESPONSE OF PRIME MINISTER
AND GOVERNMENT INFLUENCED PRESS AS CONSISTENT WITH KING
HUSSEIN'S INTENTION WHICH WE LEARED PRIVATELY
AND REPORTED PREVIOUSLY TO TRY TO PREVENT FURTHER ESCALATION OF
EGYPT-JORDAN DIFFERENCES BUT TO SIGNAL JORDAN'S PREPARATION TO
DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST EGYPTIAN PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS.
PICKERING

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